

-27-

**Claims:**

1. A method of processing transaction data relating to trade marks via at least one computer entity, said method comprising the steps of:

5 displaying country data describing at least one country in which a trade mark application may be filed;

displaying classification data describing a list of goods and services classified into a plurality of different categories;

10

displaying price data relating to at least one transaction price for performing a service in relation to a said trade mark.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

15

selectively inputting individual items of said classification data at a user interface of a said computer entity;

20

inputting trade mark data describing a trade mark, at a user interface of a said computer entity;

inputting applicant data specifying an applicant of a said trade mark at a user interface of a said computer entity;

25

entering financial data describing an account number of a customer at a user interface of a said computer entity; and

generating a confirmation message confirming said mark data, classification data, applicant data, and price data.

30

3. The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

-28-

sending said confirmation message between a plurality of individual said computer entities.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a said computer entity  
5 comprises a server computer entity and another said computer entity comprises a client terminal computer entity, said method further comprising the steps of:

said server computer entity transmitting said mark data, classification data,  
price data, applicant data and finance data to a receiving client terminal.  
10

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

filtering said mark data, classification data, price data and applicant data for  
storage in a database maintained at a said computer entity.  
15

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

transmitting said mark data, classification data, applicant data to a receiving  
computer entity of an official trade marks office as an electronic message.  
20

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving an electronic filing receipt from a computer entity of an official  
trade marks office, said electronic filing receipt comprising data selected from the  
25 set:

application number data;

filing date data;

30 applicant data;

priority claim data;

8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said classification data is presented as a plurality of distinct icons, each icon relating to a corresponding  
5 respective class of goods/services.

9. The method of processing transaction data relating to trade marks via a system of computer entities, said method comprising the steps of:

10 displaying country data describing at least one country in which a trade mark application may be filed;

displaying classification data describing a list of goods and services classified into a plurality of different categories;

15

displaying price data relating to at least one transaction price for performing a service in relation to a said trade mark;

20 selectively inputting individual items of said classification data at a user interface of a said computer entity;

inputting trade mark data describing a trade mark, at a user interface of a said computer entity;

25 inputting applicant data specifying an applicant of a said trade mark at a user interface of a said computer entity;

entering financial data describing an account number of a customer at a user interface of a said computer entity;

30

generating a confirmation message confirming said mark data, classification data, applicant data, and price data;

sending said confirmation message between individual said computer entities

5           10.       The method as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

a said server computer entity being a server computer entity transmitting said mark data, classification data, price data, applicant data and finance data to a receiving client terminal.

10

11.       The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

filtering said mark data, classification data, price data and applicant data for storage in a database maintained at a said computer entity.

15

12.       The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of:

transmitting said mark data, classification data, applicant data to a receiving computer entity of an official trade marks office as an electronic message from a said computer entity.

20

13.       The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of:

receiving an electronic filing receipt from a computer entity of an official trade marks office, said electronic filing receipt comprising data selected from the set:

25

application number data;

30

filing date data;

applicant data;

priority claim data;

14. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said classification data  
5 is presented as a plurality of distinct icons, each icon relating to a corresponding  
respective class of goods/services.

15. A computer entity configured for generating a trade mark  
application order form display, and configured for receiving customer instruction  
10 data input, said customer instruction data relating to the filing of a trade mark  
application, said computer entity comprising:

at least one processor;

15 at least one communications means;

memory storage means storing at least one database, a countries  
database, storing a country data describing a list of countries;

20 a goods/services database containing a list of goods and services arranged  
according to at least one classification system;

a cost database comprising a list of costs associated with filing a registered  
trade mark application in each of a plurality of said countries.

25

16. The computer entity as claimed in claim 15, comprising:

a web server configured to display a said order form web page;

30 wherein said web server operates to:

-32-

display said country data comprising a list of a plurality of individual countries;

display said cost data describing a cost of filing a registered trade mark application in at least one of said countries;

display said list of goods and services arranged according to a plurality of classes according to a classification system;

and said computer entity operates to:

receive input data describing at least one said country;

receive input data describing a list of goods/services selected according to said displayed goods/services;

receive input data describing a trade mark;

compile said country data, goods/services data, and mark data into a data file; and

transmit said data file via said communications means.

17. The computer entity as claimed in claim 15, further configured to:

display a web page containing law data describing a plurality of countries, and for each said country displaying data selected from the set;

whether an official trade mark search procedure is followed in said country;

-33-

whether an official trade mark examination procedure is followed in said country;

whether an official opposition procedure is followed in said country;

5

a period for an official opposition procedure in said country;

whether legalisation of documents in connection with a trade mark application is required in said country;

10

whether notarisation of documents in connection with a trade mark application is required in said country.

18. A client terminal computer entity capable of receiving a customer instruction data instructing filing of a registered trade mark application, said client terminal computer entity comprising:

15

at least one processor;

20

at least one data processor;

at least one communication means;

a memory means

25

at least one database; and

a transaction processor means; wherein said client terminal computer entity is configured to receive a customer instruction data message comprising:

30

data describing a country in which a trade mark application is to be filed;

data describing a list of goods and services classified into a plurality of different classification categories; and

5 data describing a trade mark.

19. The client terminal as claimed in claim 18, configured to receive a customer instruction data message comprising:

10 data describing an applicant for said registered trade mark application;

data describing financial details of a customer including account number data and customer name data; wherein

15 said client terminal computer entity operates to:

store said trade mark data and applicant data in an internet database;

20 send said finance data via said communication means to a third party computer entity;

receive a finance confirmation signal confirming that a customer's financial details are valid for a specified cost amount; and

25 if said valid customer finance details are received, generate a trade mark application instruction data for instruction of filing a registered trade mark application at a trade mark office.

20. The computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further configured to:

30



send trade mark application instruction data for instructing a registered trade mark application to a government office computer entity electronically.

21. The computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further configured to:

5

send trade mark application instruction data for instructing a registered trade mark application to a third party subcontractor computer entity.

10 22. The computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a user interface having a visual display device and a keyboard data entry means, said user interface allowing a human user to monitor and inspect trade mark application instruction data for instructing a registered trade mark application and said customer instruction data.

15

23. The client terminal computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further configured to:

20 send a search instruction data to an external third party engine computer entity.

24. The computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:

25 a search engine for performing a trade mark search.

25 25. A computer entity configured for displaying a trade mark application order form display, and configured for receiving customer instruction data input at a remote location, said customer instruction data relating to the filing of a trade mark application, said computer entity comprising:

30

at least one processor;

at least one communications means;

memory storage means storing at least one database, a countries  
5 database, storing a country data describing a list of countries;

a goods/services database containing a list of goods and services arranged  
according to at least one classification system;

10 a cost database comprising a list of costs associated with filing a registered  
trade mark application in each of a plurality of said countries;

a web server configured to display a said order form web page;

15 wherein said web server operates to:

display country data comprising a list of a plurality of individual countries;

display cost data describing a cost of filing a registered trade mark  
20 application in at least one of said countries;

display list of goods and services arranged according to a plurality of  
classes according to a classification system;

25 input data describing at least one said country;

input data describing a list of goods/services according to said displayed  
goods/services;

30 input data describing a trade mark;

-37-

compile said country data, goods/services data, and mark data into a data file; and

transmit said data file via said communications means.

5

27. A client terminal computer entity capable of receiving a customer instruction data instructing filing of a registered trade mark application, said client terminal computer entity comprising:

10

at least one processor;

at least one data processor;

at least one communication means;

15

a memory means

at least one database;

20

a transaction processor means; wherein

said client terminal computer entity is configured to;

receive a customer instruction data message comprising:

25

data describing a country in which a trade mark application is to be filed;

30

data describing a list of goods and services classified into a plurality of different classification categories;

data describing a trade mark;



a suitable user interface,

5 said filing of said trade mark application being undertaken by a sub contractor.

28. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said logical entities comprise a customer terminal, a host server, an internet service provider, a sub contractor terminal, a government or intergovernmental office server and a finance company server.

29. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said communication means comprise an ISDN and/or a virtual private network and/or the internet and/or wireless links.

30. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said host server computer apparatus comprises a transaction processing engine, an operating system, a memory facility, a processor, a plurality of disc drives, a plurality of ports and a plurality of software.

31. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said user interface comprises a plurality of interactive internet web pages, said web pages being configurable to allow said user to interact with a plurality of boxes and/or drop down menus.

32. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said sub contractor is a firm of trade mark agents or a firm of lawyers, or a trade mark agency or a trade mark agent or a trade mark attorney or a lawyer or a trade mark lawyer.

33. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said international offices comprise a government or intergovernmental trade mark

office said government or intergovernmental trade mark office being capable of receiving and processing said trade mark applications.

34 An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein  
5 said trade mark applications comprise said user's disclosure of the trade mark, the goods/services to which the trade mark is to be associated, the country in which the trade mark application will be filed, and/or any details of priority claim relating to an earlier application.

10 35. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said trade mark applications comprise said user's disclosure of information, said information being suitable to establish a filing date under the protocol relating to the Madrid agreement concerning the international registration of marks (adopted at Madrid on 27 July 1989).

15 36. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said trade mark applications comprise said user's disclosure of information, said information being suitable to establish a filing date, at the Community Trade Mark Office or, the Office of Harmonization in the Internal Market (trade marks and  
20 design).

37. An internet based service system configurable to allow a user to provide instruction for the filing of a plurality of trade mark applications at a plurality of international offices, whereby said service system is further configured  
25 to process data relating to:

a mark;

goods/services;

30

a priority date;

-41-

a country;

an international treaty;

5 cost;

applicant name;

applicant address;

10

customer name;

customer address;

15

credit card number;

expiry date; and

type of card.

20

38. A method of instructing the filing of trade mark applications using an internet based service system, said service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface, said method of filing of said trade mark application comprising the steps of:

25

receive transaction data;

transaction data to recover mark data, applicant data and, finance data;

30

view data on display;

store mark data and applicant data or;

-42-

forward finance data to finance server and/or;

check confirmation signal from finance server;

5

forward mark data to search engine;

receive search results and check;

10

forward mark data and, applicant data to government office or agent server;

receive confirmation of order from government office server or agent server;

generate secondary confirmation signal to customer.

15

39. An internet based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus;

communication means and;

20

a suitable user interface;

said user interface comprising a home page, information pages and, an order form.

25

40. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 39 wherein, said user interface comprises menus, said menus being configurable whereby in use a user may select an item from said menu, said item thereby being a constituent of a trade mark application.

30

41. A method of instructing the filing of trade mark applications using an internet based service system, said service system comprising a host server



-43-

computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface, said method of filing of said trade mark application comprising the steps of:

input mark;

5

specifying country or body; said body being an international treaty;

where a country or CTM are specified, said user selects filing or filing and registration;

10

whereby said user selects Madrid at specify country or body step, said user thereby selects countries;

15

said service system, via said user interface, prompts said user to specify goods/services at choose goods and services step; whereby there is provided on said user interface means to enter additional words for each class;

said user may then specify another class in addition to previous selections at stop choose goods/services;

20

where no more classes are required by said user, said user must confirm order at confirm order step or alternatively proceed to edit previous selections;

25

where order is confirmed, said user is the recipient of an email, said email thereby confirming said order, at email confirm order step;

whereby on receipt of said email said user's account is debited at debit account step;

30

where method of payment by said user is via direct debit by other payment means a sub contractor will proceed to file said application;

44. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means and, a suitable user interface  
30 whereby said service system allows a user file a trade mark application;

-45-

whereby a user may select the filing of said trade mark application under the Madrid protocol;

said user interface comprising a plurality of menus;

5

whereby said user selects at least one country in which a Madrid Protocol trade mark application may be filed.

45. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means, and a suitable user interface whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

10

whereby said user interface allows said user to either:

file said trade mark application only or;

15

file said trade mark application together with payment of registration fees and/or;

instruct a search of suitable trade mark databases.

20

46. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means and, a suitable user interface whereby said service system allows a user to instruct the filing of a trade mark application whereby said user interface allows said user to specify the goods/services where said goods/services form a constituent of said trade mark application;

25

whereby said user specifies said goods/services from a dropdown menu; or

30

whereby said user specifies goods/services using a check box;

-46-

said user interface further comprising the facility by which said user may enter data, said data further describing the classification of goods/services.

5 47. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

10 whereby said user interface is configured to provide a user with the facility to enter data relating to a priority claim;

said data of priority claim comprising:

trade mark;

15 filing date;

application number;

20 specification of goods/services;

said data of said priority claim being entered by said user via a plurality of suitable menus and/or a facility whereby said user may input data.

25 48. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communications means and a suitable user interface whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

whereby said user interface provides a user with the facility to specify details of an applicant; said details of said applicant comprising:

30

name;

-47-

postal address;

country;

5       postcode;

email address;

telephone number;

10       fax number;

said details of said applicant being entered by said user using a plurality of  
suitable menus and/or;

15       via a suitable data entry means;

said user interface being further configured to allow said user to indicate  
whether said applicant is resident in an EC or non-EC country.

20       49.     An internet-based service system comprising a cost server  
computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface  
whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

25       whereby said user interface provides said user with the facility to enter  
payment details;

said payment details comprising:

30       credit card number;

card type;

expiry date;

issue number;

5

name of cardholder;

said payment details for said trade mark application by said user being entered via said user interface using a plurality of a suitable menu and/or data entry means;

10

said user interface being further configured to indicate whether said payment of said trade mark application is by way of credit card transaction or check.

15

50. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means, and a suitable user interface whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

20

whereby said service system processes transaction data relating to said filing of said trade mark application;

said service system thereby outputting, via said user interface, substantially all of said application details;

25

said user thereby being given the option of reviewing said application details so as to either confirm said details of said application or edit said details of said application;

30

said application details selected from the set:

trade mark;

country or treaty;

Madrid countries;

5

priority marks;

filing date of priority mark;

10

application number of priority mark;

specification of goods/services of priority mark;

specification of goods/services;

15

filing;

filing and registration;

20

search;

applicant name;

applicant address;

25

applicant postcode;

applicant email address;

30

applicant telephone number;

applicant fax number;

applicant card number;

applicant card type;

5

applicant card expiry date;

applicant card issue number;

10

name of cardholder;

payment details;

total cost of said application.

15

51. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

20

whereby upon confirmation of said application details said service system, via said user interface, informs said user as to the completion of data entry by said user.